<u>IN THE SPECIFICATION</u>

Please amend paragraph [0013] as follows:

[0013]   Referring now to Fig. 1, there is shown a block diagram of a system in accordance with the present invention. Fig. 1 depicts two casinos 110, 112, each connected to a common Patron Database (PDB) 102. Casino A 110 and Casino B 112 are illustrated to show that the present invention enables multiple casinos to share customer exclusion information between properties. Although there are two casinos shown in Fig. 1, the present invention is applicable to environments having more or fewer casinos as well, and is particularly advantageous for casinos having a large number of casino properties. Accordingly, where this description refers to operations at a single casino, it is only for ease of description, and should be understood to be equally applicable to a multiple casino environment. PDB 102 maintains accounts for each customer that is known to the casino, e.g., a member of the casino's affinity program. The customer's account is typically populated with information about the customer such as account number, name, address, transaction history, and a measure of the customer's value to the casino. The particular data included in the PDB **102** for each customer is not material to the present invention, except as it relates to exclusion/restriction as described below, and will typically vary depending on the needs of a particular casino or group of casinos. Where multiple casinos are affiliated with one another, a single PDB 102 may include accounts for customers of each casino in the affiliated group. Preferably, customers having accounts in PDB 102 are also issued player loyalty cards, which help to identify the customer to the casino at the time that a customer participates in gaming activities. A detailed explanation of the operation of one suitable player loyalty system is given in United States Patent No. 6,183,362, titled "National Customer Recognition System and Method," incorporated herein by reference. As shown in Fig. 1, casino 110 also includes a Casino Management System 104a, Responsible Gaming Engine 114a, Slot ~~Data~~ <u>Management</u> System 106a, and Gaming Devices 108. Although

three Gaming Devices are shown, in actual practice there will be hundreds and sometimes thousands.